

**Remarks**

**A. Pending Claims**

Claims 9, 16-18, 22, 26, 27, and 29-42 are pending. Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 15, 19-21, 23-25 and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 15 were rejected. Claims 9, 16-22, 24 and 26-28 are allowed. Claims 29-42 are new.

**B. Indefinite Claim Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph**

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

**C. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,558,075 to Suss et al (hereinafter "Suss") in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,777,206 to Rittler (hereinafter "Rittler"), U.S. Patent No. 6,103,805 to Kojima et al. (herein after "Kojima"), or U.S. Patent No. 6,451,895 to Topolkarayev et al (herein after "Topolkarayev"). Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, and 15 have been cancelled.

**D. New Claims**

The Office Action states: Claims 6, 23 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

New claims 29 and 39 and the claims dependent on claim 29 (claims 30-38 and claim 40-42 respectively) now include features from claim 23.

Claim 35 states in part, "wherein the nano-clay comprises smectite. Support for the claim is found in applications specification page 2, lines 2-5.

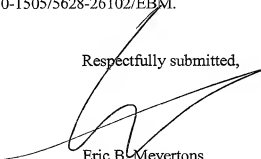
Applicant submits that Suss, alone or in combination with Rittler, Kojima, Topolkaev does not appear to teach or suggest all of the combination of features of the claims.

As such, Applicant submits that claims 29-42 are in condition for allowance.

**E. Additional Remarks**

Applicant believes no fees are required with the filing of this response. If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5628-26102/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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